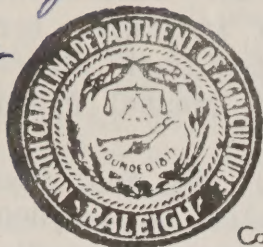


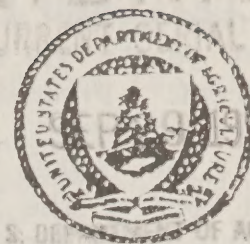
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NORTH CAROLINA



Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No. 191

RALEIGH, N. C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1955

COTTON REPORT

AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1955

Based upon conditions as of September 1, the 1955 production of cotton in North Carolina is forecast at 340,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. Such a production would be 60,000 bales, or 15 percent below the 400,000 bales forecast on August 1, and just slightly below the 364,000 bales harvested in 1954.

The smaller total production now in prospect reflects the damage to the crop resulting from hurricanes and heavy rains during the last half of August.

Yield per acre on the 463,000 acres for harvest is calculated at 352 pounds lint cotton, compared with 319 pounds per acre last year, and 334 pounds the 10-year (1944-53) average.

At the time of the August 1 forecast an unusually good crop was in prospect over practically the entire cotton area of the State. Good progress continued until August 12 when Hurricane Connie swept across the eastern half of the State. Plants were badly whipped and additional

(Continued on Page 2)

CORN PROSPECTS

DECLINE DURING AUGUST

Corn crop prospects declined during the month of August, lowering the September 1 expected production to 69,802,000 bushels -- 4,106,000 bushels below the August 1 forecast. In spite of a lower forecast, a production of this size would be the second largest of record, exceeded only in 1950 when 74,184,000 bushels were produced. The September 1 indicated yield per acre of 34.0 bushels compares with 36.0 forecast a month earlier and with 24.0 harvested in 1954.

(Continued on Page 3)

FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION

PASSES BILLION POUND MARK

According to September 1 reports received from tobacco growers and warehousemen, production of 1955 flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina is estimated to be 1,002,325,000 pounds -- an increase of about eight and a half million pounds over the amount expected a month ago. If the current forecast is realized, this will be the first time in the history of the State that production of flue-cured tobacco has exceeded a billion pounds. This year's phenomenal production has occurred because of the use of heavy fertilization, the use of improved varieties, closer spacing of plants, and almost ideal weather for growing tobacco.

Although the crop was badly whipped by recent hurricanes, most of it was already harvested in the areas receiving the strongest winds. Total storm damage, although quite severe in many instances, was more than offset by the improvement resulting from accompanying rains, particularly in areas which previously had been deficient in soil moisture. This year's estimate is almost 13 percent above the 889,490,000 pounds harvested in 1954 and it is 20 percent above the 10-year average annual production for 1944-53. The estimated yield of 1,530 pounds per acre for all flue-cured is a record high.

Breaking down the total flue-cured crop by types, Type 11 production is placed at 350,625,000 pounds with an average yield of 1,375 pounds per acre, both an all time record. This turn-out is 18 percent above the 297,920,000 pounds produced in 1954. Type 12 production is expected to reach a record high of 523,050,000 pounds, with an all-time high yield of 1,650 pounds. This would exceed

(Continued on Page 2)

FLUE-CURED PRODUCTION *(Continued)*

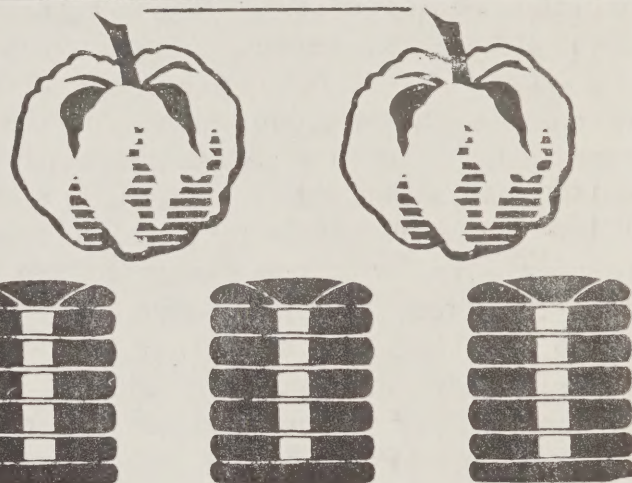
last year's 477,620,000 pound crop by 10 percent. Production of Type 13 is estimated at 128,650,000 pounds, with a yield of 1,550 pounds per acre, also records, and topping the 1954 crop of 113,950,000 pounds by 13 percent.

Burley tobacco in North Carolina is expected to produce 21,630,000 pounds, thus giving the astounding yield of 2,100 pounds per acre. This production has been surpassed only by that of 1954 which was recorded as 24,384,000 pounds.

For the United States, total flue-cured tobacco production for 1955 is estimated at 1,517,403,000 pounds. This is a little over 15 percent larger than the crop for last year and almost 22 percent larger than the 10-year average.

the result of these unfavorable conditions. Although deterioration is indicated for all areas of the State, the most severe damage is reported in the Coastal Plain counties.

For the United States, the September forecast of 12,873,000 bales is 145,000 bales above the August forecast. Indicated reductions in the Carolinas, La., and in some western states are more than offset by increases in prospective production in Georgia, Alabama, and Calif., and in the Mississippi River Delta States other than in Louisiana. Ginnings to September 1 this year were reported at 1,388,380 running bales, as compared with 1,694,792 for 1954.



COTTON *(Continued)*

damage was caused by heavy rains. Hurricane Diane followed Connie by 5 days, being preceded and accompanied by unusually heavy rainfall. Also, heavy rain continued throughout the remainder of the month. Fruiting of plants was brought to a halt and infestations of boll weevils and boll worms were sharply increased as

COTTON ESTIMATES SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	1955 ACREAGE ^{1/}		SEPTEMBER 1 CONDITION			LINT YIELD PER HARVESTED ACRE			PRODUCTION ^{2/} 500-LB. GROSS WT. BALES		
	TOTAL ABANDONMENT AFTER JULY 1	FOR HARVEST	AVER- AGE 1944- 1953	1954	1955	AVER- AGE 1944- 1953	1954	1955 INDI- CATED SEPT. 1	AVER- AGE 1944- 1953	1954	1955 IN- DICATED SEPT. 1
	%	Thous. Acres	Percent			Pounds			Thousand Bales		
N. C.	2.5	463	74	77	80	334	319	352	492	364	340
S. C.	1.4	715	71	59	72	312	288	312	692	501	465
GA.	1.9	869	70	62	79	253	286	331	695	612	600
TENN.	1.8	570	75	64	85	360	405	442	565	548	525
ALA.	1.2	993	70	59	85	286	298	396	908	728	820
MISS.	3.0	1,679	73	65	86	341	384	457	1,693	1,571	1,600
MO.	1.6	389	76	77	85	368	478	481	358	450	390
ARK.	1.5	1,453	73	61	86	338	380	438	1,386	1,351	1,325
LA.	2.1	607	68	62	73	331	399	395	591	572	500
OKLA.	4.5	807	63	45	77	160	151	205	390	293	345
TEXAS	5.0	6,649	70	69	75	188	245	278	3,388	3,940	3,850
N. MEX.	5.0	176	88	94	87	500	743	627	217	316	230
ARIZ.	4.3	340	92	95	82	598	1,039	896	481	911	635
CALIF.	2.0	743	93	96	90	631	806	775	1,048	1,487	1,200
OTHER STATES ^{3/}	2.9	61	.	.	.	283	367	376	47	52	48
U. S.	3.4	16,514	73	69	81	279	341	374	12,952	13,696	12,873

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-lb. bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. ^{3/} Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky and Nevada.

CORN PROSPECTS (Continued)

August rainfall was heavy in all areas of the State. Some improvement is indicated for the mountain districts, several northern and central Piedmont counties and a few counties in the northern coastal districts. The crop was in a very favorable position up to August 12 when hurricane "Connie" struck. "Diane" struck only a few days later on August 17. High winds during the hurricanes coupled with heavy rainfall and rains that followed caused considerable damage in the coastal districts. Some damage was also done in counties outside the coastal districts that were in the direct path of the hurricanes. The damage to the corn crop from adverse weather conditions during the latter half of the month more than off-set the general improvement in the crop up to August 12 and the additional improvement resulting from rain in areas which had been in need of moisture prior to the storms.

United States corn production is currently estimated at 3,113,467,000 bushels. This compares with the 1954 crop of 2,964,639,000 bushels.

HAY PROSPECTS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

The N. C. 1955 "All Hay" crop is forecast at 1,221,000 tons -- 140,000 tons more than was produced during the drought-stricken year 1954, although 45,000 tons below the 1944-53 average. Estimated production in tons for Alfalfa is 163,000; Clover-Timothy 115,000; Lespedeza 412,000; Soybean 150,000; Peanuts 128,000; and all other kinds 253,000.

Alfalfa yield per acre is estimated at 2.20 tons compared with 1.80 in 1954 and 2.11 for the 10-year average. Lespedeza yield is indicated at 1.05 tons compared with .85 in 1954 and equals the 1944-53 average. The "All Hay" yield per acre is estimated at 1.11 tons compared with 1.06 a month earlier and .96 last year.

During August the rainfall was heavy in most areas and soil moisture was average to above on September 1. Growing conditions have been favorable for most kinds of hay. Harvesting of the crop was delayed and completely stopped in some counties due to continuous rains the latter half of August.

RECORD YIELD OF GRAIN SORGHUM IN PROSPECT

Weather conditions for the production of grain sorghum have been very favorable, and a record per acre yield is now in prospect. Production as of September 1 is estimated at 3,960,000 bushels, based on an expected yield per acre of 33 bushels. If this production materializes, it will be 1,735,000 bushels above the 1954 crop and 3,370,000 bushels above the short-time average of 590,000 bushels.

No damage to grain sorghums from recent hurricanes has been reported. The green and pliable state of this low growing crop made it particularly adaptable to bend with the wind with the ability to return to its original position.

INDICATED SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION DOWN SLIGHTLY FROM LAST MONTH

Based upon recent reports from growers, sweet potato production in North Carolina is currently estimated at 4,725,000 bushels -- a drop of 225,000 bushels from last month. Hard packing rains during late August damaged the crop to some extent in the heavy producing Eastern Counties.

With higher yields per acre expected and a somewhat larger total acreage, production from the 1955 crop will probably run about 18 percent above last year's crop of 3,999,000 bushels but about 17 percent below the 1944-53 average crop of 5,690,000 bushels.

IRISH POTATO PRODUCTION UP

Based on reports received from growers as of September 1, a potato crop of 6,800,000 bushels is in prospect for 1955. This is an increase of 15 percent over the 1954 production but is 20 percent below the 10-year (1944-53) average production of 8,508,000 bushels.

If current yield prospects materialize, growers will harvest 170 bushels per acre. This compares with 151 for 1954 and would be the highest yield of record, exceeding by three bushels the previous high set in 1950 of 167 bushels. The higher yields reflect favorable weather during the growing season and during the peak harvest season for both the early and late crops.

NORTH CAROLINA ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)			YIELD (IN UNITS)			PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	2, 204	2, 116	2, 053	28. 4	24. 0	34. 0	62, 641	50, 784	69, 802
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	410	338	324	17. 5	22. 0	21. 5	7, 178	7, 436	6, 966
Oats.....	Bu.	375	523	528	31. 1	39. 0	35. 0	11, 734	20, 397	18, 480
Barley.....	Bu.	38	57	57	28. 8	34. 0	29. 0	1, 108	1, 938	1, 653
Rye.....	Bu.	22	18	19	13. 0	15. 0	15. 0	1, 274	1, 270	1, 285
TOBACCO: All.....	Lbs.	710. 2	698. 7	665. 3	1, 207	1, 308	1, 539	855, 264	913, 874	1, 023, 955
Type 11.....	Lbs.	272. 0	266. 0	255. 0	1, 119	1, 120	1, 375	304, 066	297, 920	350, 625
Type 12.....	Lbs.	341. 8	334. 0	317. 0	1, 256	1, 430	1, 650	428, 016	477, 620	523, 050
Type 13.....	Lbs.	85. 2	86. 0	83. 0	1, 238	1, 325	1, 525	105, 346	113, 950	126, 575
All Flue-Cured....	Lbs.	699. 0	686. 0	655. 0	1, 204	1, 297	1, 530	837, 428	889, 490	1, 002, 325
Type 31, Burley...	Lbs.	11. 2	12. 7	10. 3	1, 598	1, 920	2, 100	17, 835	24, 384	21, 630
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	711	557	475	334	319	352	492	364	340
Sorghum, All.....	-	40	110	143	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	2/ 22	89	120	2/ 26. 2	25. 0	33. 0	2/ 590	2, 225	3, 960
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	63	39	40	137	151	170	8, 508	5, 889	6, 800
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	53	43	45	107	93	105	5, 690	3, 999	4, 725
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	390	441	423	-	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	255	295	285	14. 4	16. 0	16. 5	3, 735	4, 720	4, 702
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	-	272	178	189	-	-	-	-	-	-
peanuts, picked and Threshed	Lbs.	257	172	182	1, 190	1, 465	1, 550	297, 142	251, 980	282, 100
HAY: All.....	Tons	1, 248	1, 130	1, 099	1. 02	. 96	1. 11	1, 266	1, 081	1, 221
Clover and Timothy 3/.	Tons	98	96	96	1. 12	1. 05	1. 20	110	101	115
Alfalfa.....	Tons	41	67	74	2. 11	1. 80	2. 20	87	121	163
Lespedeza.....	Tons	513	467	392	1. 05	. 85	1. 05	539	397	412
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	60	88
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 742	1, 150	4/ -
Apples, Commercial 5/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1, 220	1, 900	4/ 40
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	164	125	4/ -
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	3. 3	2. 6	2. 4
Pecans, All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2, 371	1, 000	1, 140

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1; Prod. in Bales.

2/ Short-term average.

3/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.

4/ 1955 crop almost a complete failure because of spring freeze. A few peaches maybe produced but prospective production is too small to warrant a forecast at this time.

5/ Estimates of commercial crop refer to total production in commercial apple areas.

UNITED STATES ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS SEPTEMBER 1, 1955 WITH COMPARISONS

•CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)		YIELD (IN UNITS)		PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)	
		Average 1944-53	Harvested 1954	Indicated 1955	Average 1944-53	1954	Indicated 1955
Corn, All.....	Bu.	84,675	79,875	80,765	36.4	37.1	38.5
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	47,942	38,636	33,891	18.0	20.5	20.3
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	67,656	53,712	47,376	17.1	18.1	19.2
Oats.....	Bu.	39,556	42,151	42,009	33.4	35.6	38.9
Barley.....	Bu.	10,329	12,994	14,099	25.9	28.5	27.4
Rye.....	Bu.	1,740	1,718	2,081	12.1	13.8	13.7
TOBACCO: Flue-Cured.....	Lbs.	1,046.7	1,042.2	994.3	1,195	1,261	1,488
Burley.....	Lbs.	454.5	420.9	325.8	1,270	1,585	1,556
All Types.....	Lbs.	1,734.3	1,666.1	1,520.5	1,213	1,342	1,486
Cotton 1/.....	Lbs.	22,763	19,791	17,096	279	341	374
Sorghums, All.....	-	13,283	17,828	21,400	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	2/7,180	10,764	13,228	2/18.4	19.0	20.1
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	1,967	1,408	1,444	213.1	252.8	271.9
Sweetpotatoes.....	Bu.	496.5	345.5	338.7	94.3	86.5	106.7
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes	-	13,740	18,753	19,860	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	11,987	17,037	18,397	19.9	20.1	21.1
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.	-	3,134	1,936	2,034	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	2,562	1,388	1,656	784	737	1,020
HAY: All.....	Tons	74,328	72,770	74,667	1.38	1.43	1.45
Alfalfa.....	Tons	16,685	22,996	25,082	2.21	2.15	2.06
Clover & Timothy 3/....	Tons	22,097	19,312	18,064	1.41	1.43	1.48
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,343	3,702	4,307	1.04	.82	1.10
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Apples, Commercial 4/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pecans, All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-

1/ Acres in cultivation July 1: Prod. in Bales.

2/ Short-Term Average.

3/ Excludes Sweet Clover and Lespedeza Hay.

4/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to total production of apples in commercial apple areas of each State.

5/ For some States in certain years production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions.

N. C. SOYBEAN

PRODUCTION DOWN

Based on reports from growers as of September 1, the 1955 soybean crop in North Carolina is estimated at 4,702,000 bushels. This is 18,000 bushels below the 1954 production of 4,720,000 bushels.

If the estimated yield per acre of 16.5 bushels is realized, it will equal the highest yield of record which was obtained in 1951 and 1952. This compares with an average yield per acre of 16 bushels last year.

The crop in the Coastal counties was damaged to some extent by high winds during the hurricanes last month but rainfall received during and after the hurricanes in the Western part of the State improved yield prospects to some extent. In some of the Coastal counties soybeans are still young and can overcome much of the loss sustained by the heavy rains and high winds.

EGG PRODUCTION HIGHEST OF RECORD FOR AUGUST

Egg production on North Carolina farms during August, estimated at 105 million, reached the same record high for that month established a year ago.

The August production was 9 million eggs short of the July 1955 production. An average of 7,558,000 layers was on hand during the month, representing the third highest number on hand for August and being exceeded only in 1954 and 1953. The reduced number of layers was more than offset by an average rate of lay of 1,389 eggs per 100 birds which was the highest of record for the month, outstripping the old record high for August of 1954 by about 2 percent.

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

Farm production of milk in the State during August was estimated at 161 million pounds. Production during the month showed a slight increase from the previous month instead of the usual seasonal decline. The August 1955 production was 6 million pounds above the production for the same month a year earlier and 1 million pounds above the previous August 1953 record high of 160 million pounds.

The increased flow is attributed to

better feed supplies and pasture condition that has been excellent due to abundant rainfall in practically all areas of the State.

PECAN PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

The pecan crop is estimated to be 1,140,000 pounds, the same as a month earlier. The forecast production is 14 percent above the 1954 crop of 1,000,000 pounds but 52 percent below the 1944-53 average. Production from the improved varieties is expected to be 900,000 pounds, and seedlings about 240,000 pounds.

The United States production forecast is for 81,440,000 pounds compared with 90,510,000 pounds in 1954 and 141,437,000 pounds for the 10-year average. The improved varieties are forecast at 20,600,000 pounds and seedling pecans at 60,840,000 pounds. Georgia, the most important State in the production of improved pecans, expects a total crop of only 4 million pounds this year, compared with 20 million pounds last year and a 1944-53 average of 37 million pounds. Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma are expected to produce 74 percent of the total U. S. production.

N. C. PEANUT

PRODUCTION UP 11.7

Based upon conditions as of September 1, the 1955 production of peanuts in North Carolina is estimated at 282,100,000 pounds. This is about 12 percent above the 1954 production of 251,980,000 pounds.

The average yield per acre is indicated at 1,550 pounds. This compares with an average of 1,465 pounds last year and the 1944-53 average of 1,190 pounds.

The increase in production is due to rainfall received during August in some of the major producing areas which had been dry during July.



N. C. WEATHER SUMMARY FOR AUGUST, 1955

Two hurricanes, coming only five days apart, head the list of important weather phenomena affecting North Carolina in August. Hurricane Connie entered the coastline just east of Morehead City on the morning of the 12th, moved northward during the day, and crossed the Virginia line near Norfolk early in the evening. Wind affecting the eastern half of North Carolina ranged downward from near 80 miles per hour on the coast to 40 in the Piedmont. High tides caused considerable damage to beaches and to low lying farm lands, towns and cities on the sounds and river mouths. Hurricane Diane followed on the 17th, crossing the State from near Wilmington across Durham to near Danville, Virginia. Winds affected a wider inland area, but were not generally destructive. Tides hit the low grounds even harder than in Connie.

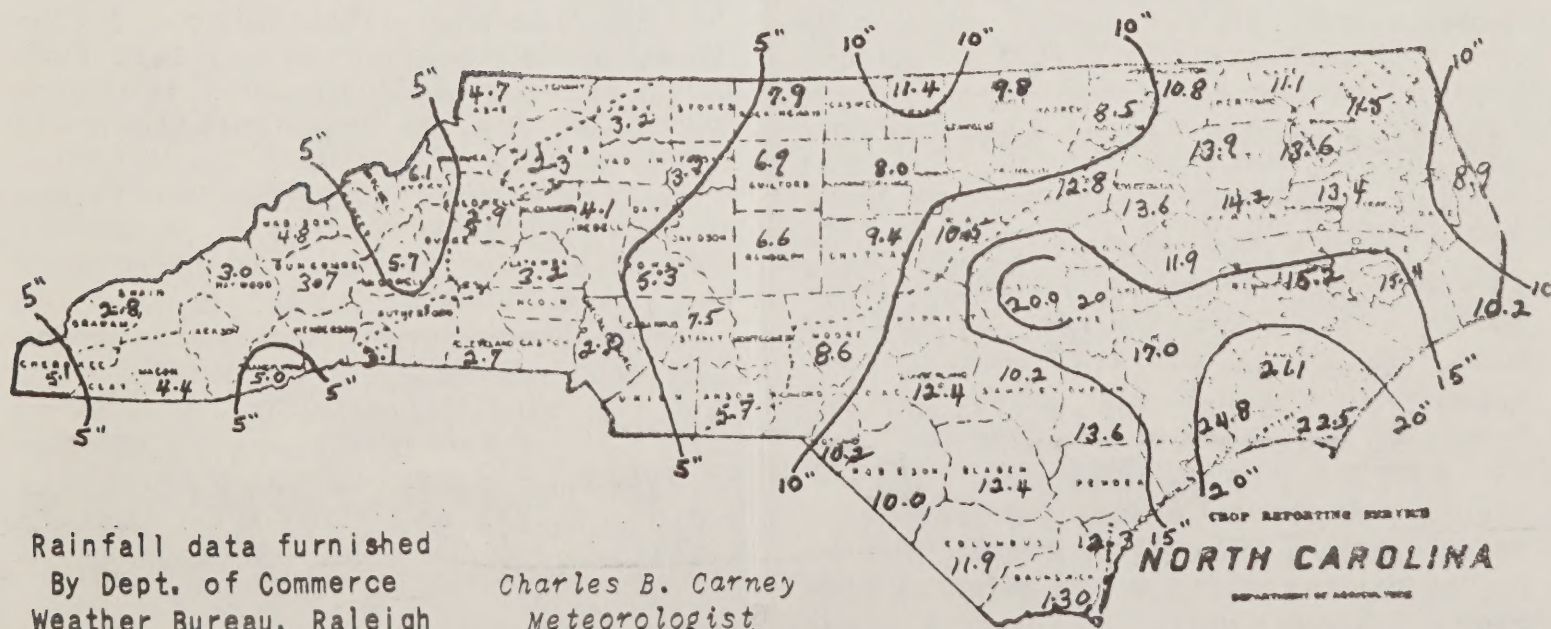
PRECIPITATION: August, 1955, was the wettest August on record in eastern North Carolina. All the figures are not in yet, but the average August rainfall over the Coastal Plain is estimated to have been 13.50 inches, which very nearly ties the all time record for any month, 13.55 inches in September, 1924. The

greatest amount reported in August was 24.79 inches, at Hoffman Forest (Weather substation Maysville 6 SW) in Onslow County. Smithfield was the wettest place outside the coastal counties, with twenty inches. The western half of the State had only about normal rainfall.

The heavy rains in the east came mostly in connection with Hurricanes Connie and Diane, and with one or two heavy thunderstorm periods later in the month.

TEMPERATURE: North Carolina weather averaged hot in August, but without any unusual extremes of temperature. In Charlotte, where the effects of the hurricanes and other cloudy weather were felt only slightly, the mercury climbed to 90 or higher on 21 of the 31 days; but the highest on any day was only 98. Other inland stations east of the mountains, in spite of protracted cloudiness, reached 90 on 10 to 15 days. Nights, too, were warm, seldom dropping much below 70 except in the mountains. Average temperatures for the month ranged from near normal on the cloudy southeast coast to four degrees above normal in the southwestern Piedmont.

INCHES OF RAINFALL, AUGUST 1955



FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Agricultural Estimates Division
S. R. Newell, Director

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GENERAL CONDITIONS

As of August 1 we were experiencing an unusually favorable situation in North Carolina with respect to prospective crop production. The corn and tobacco crops were by far the best that had ever been seen in this quarter, and prospects for other crops such as cotton, soybeans, and peanuts were well above average.

Hurricane Connie struck on August 12, and damage to crops was quite extensive over all of the area east of Raleigh. Except in some of the more northern counties, flue-cured tobacco was from 80 to 90 percent harvested. Tobacco still in the field was very badly whipped, but losses apparently were not as severe as for some of the other crops, and beneficial rains evidently were more than sufficient to offset such losses.

Within less than a week after Connie struck, we weathered very heavy rains which accompanied hurricane Diane. Following that date we have had a continuation of general rains and heavy

showers. Reports of damage to crops, particularly in the Coastal Plains, have been quite heavy and run into millions of dollars. As usual, some reports are undoubtedly exaggerated, but losses have surely been quite extensive. Improvement to peanuts following the rains accompanying the August storms, has been more than nullified by the continued wet weather which has followed. Corn losses resulting from the hurricanes have also been amplified, and many fields are now sprouting in the ear or rotting and sprouting on the ground. Cotton, badly matted by high winds, could no longer be effectively poisoned, and weevils and boll worms have taken full advantage of the situation. Considerable amounts of cotton have either rotted in bolls or sprouted in burs. About the only crops to show an improvement over the past month are grain sorghums and growths of pasture grasses, lespedeza and other late hay crops.